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Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations: cooperation between the United Nations and the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries

Letter dated 20 August 2008 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Portugal to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

On behalf of the Presidency of the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries, I have the honour to enclose herewith the English version of the final declaration of the seventh Conference of Heads of State and Government of the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries, which took place in Lisbon on 24 and 25 July 2008 (see annex).

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the sixty-third session of the General Assembly under item 117 (f) of the provisional agenda.

(*Signed*) Jorge **Lobo de Mesquita**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Annex to the letter dated 20 August 2008 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Portugal to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

Seventh Conference of the Heads of State and Government of the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries

Lisbon, 25 July 2008

Lisbon Declaration

1. The Heads of State and Government of Angola, Brazil, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Portugal, São Tomé and Príncipe and Timor-Leste as well as Mozambique's Minister for Foreign Affairs and Co-operation meeting in the 7th Conference of the Heads of State and Government of the *Comunidade dos Países de Língua Portuguesa* (CPLP) [Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries] in Lisbon, on 25 July 2008:

2. Elected His Excellency the President of the Portuguese Republic, Aníbal Cavaco Silva, as chairman of the Conference of the CPLP Heads of State and Government, for the next two years;

3. Took note with satisfaction of the measures adopted and of the actions undertaken since the 6th Conference of the Heads of State and Government of the CPLP, in Bissau, on 17 July 2006, with a view to upholding the Community and achieving its objectives;

4. Adopted a declaration on the theme of the Conference "The Portuguese Language: A Common Heritage, a Global Future" and enhanced the importance of the dialogue at CPLP level for the pursuit of linguistic policies to publicize and support the Portuguese language internationally, but adapted to suit the situation in each Member State;

5. Reiterated their commitment to democracy, the rule of law, human rights and social justice, pre-requisites for peace and security which in turn are necessary for the development of the CPLP Member States;

6. Within the scope of the political and diplomatic dialogue, they stressed:

i) The need for the CPLP to continue to take strategic action towards boosting its international image, consolidating it by:

– Reinforcing its relations with the United Nations and its specialized agencies, for example, by means of the Protocol on Co-operation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Co-operation Agreement with the Secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa.

– Establishing partnerships with the regional and sub-regional organizations to which its Member States belong, the Memorandum of Understanding it has signed with the European Commission being a good example.

Within this framework, memorandums of understanding will be concluded with the African Union (UA), the International Organization of the Francophonie (OIF), the Council of Europe, the Community of Democracies (CD) and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS);

ii) The performance of the CPLP Groups in the international forums as well as in the capital cities of the Member States and of third countries, in fields of common interest; in this context, they called for dialogue among those Groups, as they consider it a procedure that is essential to reinforce the performance of the CPLP and in doing so makes a vital contribution to its prestige and sense of belonging to the Community.

In this regard, they reminded CPLP Groups of the pressing need for regular meetings, prepare reports of their meetings and transmit them to the Executive Secretariat, as set out in the Resolution adopted during the 10th Ordinary Meeting of the Council of Ministers of the CPLP, that took place in Luanda, in July 2005, in order to ensure a good information exchange, improve the content of their work and better pursue the Community's goals.

iii) The regular tracking of the national situation in the Member States, in particular in Guinea-Bissau and Timor-Leste, by helping to identify and relieve problems and seeking solutions to prevent conflicts, namely by reinforcing the dialogue between the national authorities and consolidating the institutions.

iv) The participation of the CPLP, as one of the founding members, in the activities of the International Contact Group for Guinea-Bissau (GIC-GB), whose mission is based on four elements – political, socio-economic, diplomatic and security sector reform – within the framework of the assistance provided to Guinea-Bissau.

v) The inclusion of Guinea-Bissau on the Agenda of the Peacebuilding Commission by the United Nations Security Council whereby the Executive Secretariat and all CPLP Member States became member of the country-specific configuration on Guinea-Bissau. Within this framework, they underlined the need for political stability and institutional capacity strengthening, as well as the urgency of finding solutions to meet the most pressing needs of the population.

vi) The International Conference on Drug trafficking in Guinea-Bissau held in Lisbon, in December 2007, which had the advantage of drawing attention to the necessity of supporting the country in the fight against drug trafficking, namely by providing technical assistance to ensure the national control of its borders and territorial waters, and the strengthening of the judicial institutions and law enforcement bodies.

vii) The decision to establish a Permanent Representation in Díli, whose overriding aim is to promote political and diplomatic dialogue at national and regional level, and initiatives contributing to the

consolidation of the rule of law and respect for human rights, within the scope of the principles enshrined in the Statutes of their Community. This way CPLP will also reinforce its presence in the country as well as in the region, and shape the co-operation between Timor-Leste and their Organization.

viii) The deployment of CPLP election observation missions, including for the presidential and legislative elections in Timor-Leste, taking the opportunity to also express satisfaction with the participation of Magistrates and Members of Parliament of the Member States.

They further commended the authorities of that same country for its capacity to organize these elections, for the people's civic behaviour and democratic living.

ix) The elections that will take place in the third quarter of this year in three Member States of the CPLP – Angola (September), Guinea-Bissau (November) and Mozambique (November).

Taking into account that Angola is boosting its political and economic influence in Austral Africa, the upcoming legislative elections are politically important not only for the country, but also for the Community.

The legislative elections in Guinea-Bissau, that will have to be a key landmark in the stability and political and institutional future of the country, will start an election cycle culminating first in the presidential elections in 2010 and then in local elections.

The local elections in Mozambique, in so far as they institutionalize the bodies of local authority, represent a significant step forward in the process of political and administrative decentralization and in strengthening the country's democratization.

x) The presidential and legislative elections in Timor-Leste (April, May and June 2007) and the local elections in Cape Verde (May 2008) which reflect the consolidation of the democratic institutions in the Member States of the CPLP.

xi) The need to reform and revitalize the United Nations system, in particular the Security Council, in order to make it more representative in the light of the new international realities. Recalling the Final Communiqué of the 2nd Meeting of the Council of Ministers (Salvador, 1997), the São Tomé Declaration (2004) and the Bissau Declaration (2006), they reiterated their support for Brazil as future permanent member of the Security Council.

Still within the scope of the United Nations Security Council, they reaffirmed the provision of the Action Plan for the Future of the CPLP adopted in Coimbra, in July 2003, according to which Member States should become more involved in that Council, reiterating the support of the Community for Portugal's candidature for the term 2011-2012.

Also, the need for the Member States of the CPLP to follow the process of Cape Verde's graduation from the list of Least Developed Countries and to support the transition measures within this scope, within the framework of the United Nations and in other international *forums*.

xii) The following candidatures endorsed by the CPLP within the framework of the United Nations system: Brazil is a candidate for the Security Council membership for the biennium 2010 – 2011 and Portugal for the biennium 2011 – 2012; the candidacy of the Brazilian Professor António Augusto Cançado Trindade for election to the panel of judges at the International Court of Justice for the term 2009 – 2018, to be elected during the 63rd Session of the General Assembly; and Brazilian and Portuguese candidacies for a seat on the Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women in July 2008, Ms. Sílvia Pimentel and Mrs. Maria Regina Tavares da Silva, respectively, having announced their candidacy for re-election.

They expressed satisfaction with the election of Professor Vicente Marotta Rangel, Brazil, and of Ambassador José Luís de Jesus, Cape Verde, in June 2008, to the panel of judges at the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea;

xiii) The United Nations Secretary-General's appointment of His Excellency Jorge Sampaio, former President of the Portuguese Republic and Ambassador of Good Will of the CPLP, as the first High Representative for the Alliance of Civilizations; and of His Excellency Joaquin Alberto Chissano, former President of the Republic of Mozambique and Ambassador of Good Will of the CPLP, as Special Envoy of the United Nations Secretary-General to Northern Uganda.

xiv) The announcement of new applications for Associate Observer status in the CPLP, considering the advantages and synergies that the Organization can obtain from them, as bringing non-Portuguese-Speaking countries closer to the Community boosts its prestige and reinforces it politically and economically.

xv) The need to further approach Equatorial Guinea as a CPLP Associate Observer Member by privileging the diffusion and teaching of the Portuguese Language in the country as well as the fostering of bilateral economic and commercial relations, thus embodying the political will to support the integration of the country into the Community.

xvi) The interest of bringing the Republic of Mauritius closer, a process that involves the elaboration of a strategy to implement its associated observer status in the CPLP, namely within the framework of the diffusion and teaching of the Portuguese Language and in the strengthening of economic and commercial relations between the Member States and the Island Mauritius.

xvii) The importance of granting the associated observer status to the Republic of Senegal; it now enjoys the rights conferred in pursuance of Article 7 of the Organization's Statutes.

xviii) The creation of the CPLP Parliamentary Assembly and, in this context, urged the national Parliaments of the Member States to shape this Community body which will considerably contribute

to the reinforcement of the CPLP performance, thus enhancing the visibility and prestige of the Community.

xix) The signature of the Agreement on Consular Protection within the CPLP, being aware of the importance of the co-operation in this field for the development of their privileged relations; and of the advantages for their citizens deriving either from the generalization and harmonization of the provisions of the Agreements already in force in this area, either from their applicability to all Member States.

xx) The International Humanitarian Law (IHL) as an essential element of international contemporary life and as a significant contribution to the building of a fairer and more peaceful world. In this regard and according to the Constitutive Declaration of the CPLP, they have chosen the implementation of IHL in the Member States as a political priority for the Community and urged to intensify efforts aimed at ratifying or adhering to the instruments of IHL; include serious violations of IHL in the domestic legislation of the Member States; continue efforts aimed at creating National Commissions on human rights for the implementation of IHL in the Member States.

7. Looked forward to the forthcoming Conference of the Constitutional Courts of the Portuguese-Speaking Countries, next November, in Brasilia, an important forum for the exchange of experience with a view to improving and strengthening the judiciary of the CPLP countries, especially as regards the review of the constitutionality.

8. Expressed satisfaction at the ongoing reorganization process of the Executive Secretariat of the CPLP and decided that this process must continue to strengthen the technical capacity necessary to ensure adequate communication between the Presidency of the Council of Ministers and the other CPLP bodies.

9. Took note of the working document "For a New Co-operation of the CPLP: A Strategic Vision for Co-operation after Bissau" and urged the other CPLP bodies to continue the reflection on the principles that should underpin co-operation within the CPLP.

10. Still within the framework of co-operation, they emphasized:

i) The paramount importance of co-operation for the sustained development within Member States, the consolidation of the Community and its image as an international organization, and, in this regard, asked the Co-operation Focal Points to make efforts to coordinate, systematize and detail co-operation policies in order to improve the effectiveness of the actions undertaken within the community, namely as far as its adoption by the beneficiaries is concerned.

ii) The approval during the 12th Ordinary Meeting of the Council of Ministers of the CPLP, of the Medium Term Indicative Co-operation Plan (PIC), elaborated according to the General Co-operation Strategy, adopted in Bissau, during the 6th Conference of the Heads of State and Government of the CPLP.

They decided that PIC, whose purpose is to support the efforts to promote human development within the Member States and reinforce its abilities, should be the main multilateral co-operation instrument within the CPLP and, as such, mobilize decisive and constructive projects for the sustainable development process of the beneficiary countries.

iii) The need to support co-operation actions, first and foremost towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals, having emphasized the important contribution that the Conference "Fulfil Bissau – Challenges and Contribution of the CPLP to the achievement of the MDGs" and the debate around it, within the scope of the event "Development Days", launched by the Portuguese Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and Co-operation and organized by the *Instituto Português de Apoio ao Desenvolvimento* (Portuguese Institute for Development Aid), made to this end. This Conference was an initiative launched by the Guinean Presidency of the CPLP, with the support of the Executive Secretariat and Portugal, and took place in June 2008.

iv) The 14th, 15th, 16th and 17th Meetings of the Co-operation Focal Points that enabled to identify and follow multilateral projects aimed at promoting development and the eradication of poverty.

v) The elaboration according to the decisions taken by the 12th Council of Ministers of the CPLP of the CPLP Strategic Plan for Timor-Leste that is designed to contribute to the development of that country by promoting, divulging and using the Portuguese language as a means of daily communication as well as the language used in business and professional life; and by reinforcing the country's institutional capacity in technical areas, such as justice and public administration.

vi) The importance of the Memorandum of Understanding signed with the European Commission (EC), during the Portuguese EU Presidency, an instrument that will enable the development of important co-operation projects with that body, as well as the harmonization of procedures.

vii) The interest that the Co-operation Agreement between the CPLP and International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) holds for rural development.

viii) The efforts made by the Executive Secretariat of the CPLP to coordinate the work needed to draw up the future CPLP Strategic Plan for Health Co-operation (PECS/CPLP) aimed at strengthening the health co-operation, particularly as regards the reinforcement of the institutional capacity of our Member States' health systems.

In this regard, they encouraged the Member States to make financial contributions, through the Special Fund of the CPLP, to the elaboration process of the PECS/CPLP, as well as towards the implementation of the said Plan following its adoption.

ix) The holding of a forum on health issues affecting the civil society of the Portuguese-Speaking Countries, which ran parallel to the 7th Conference of the Heads of State and Government of the CPLP, on initiative of Mr. Jorge Sampaio, Ambassador of Good Will of the CPLP for health issues and Special Envoy of the United Nations for Tuberculosis.

They subscribed to the conclusions drawn from that forum, contained in the document "Call for Action" that Mr. Jorge Sampaio submitted to them, whereby they pledged in particular to make every effort, in the future, to enable a regular civil society forum on health issues affecting the Portuguese-Speaking Countries, which will run parallel to the Conferences of the Heads of State and Government, as well as the creation of a Sub-committee to follow up the policies on AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, functioning within the Executive Secretariat of the CPLP, according to the conditions and objectives described in the document referred above, considering the indispensable contribution that an active and organized civil society can make to achieving the Millennium Development Goal no. 6.

x) The work done by the Executive Secretariat within the framework of the technical co-operation project signed with FAO: "*Elaboration of a Co-operation Programme South/South and North/South of the CPLP with a view to implementing the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification*".

xi) The establishment of the partnership between the CPLP and the ILO Office in Lisbon, as formalized by a Collaboration Protocol, through the creation of the interactive platform between the Governments of the CPLP Member States to exchange information and experiences within the scope of social protection, labour inspection and fight against child labour.

xii) The taking charge by the Portuguese *Serviço de Estrangeiros e Fronteiras* (SEF) [Border and Aliens Service], during the 7th Meeting of the Directors of the Migration and Border Services of the CPLP, of the technical management of the CPLP Observatory for monitoring and analysing migratory flows which the interested parties will be able to access, in 2009, through the site of the CPLP.

11. Took note of the decisions taken during the Sectorial Ministerial Meetings and others held since the 6th Conference of the Heads of State and Government, in Bissau, July 2006 (Appendix I).

12. Emphasized the results of the ministerial decisions in the field of Culture and expressed satisfaction at the decision to organize a Cultural Fair of the CPLP, closely linked to the promotion of policies designed to further the creative industries.

13. Welcomed the 10th Meeting of the Defence Ministers, in Dili, and the creation of the Centres of Excellence for Training Trainers in the field of Peacekeeping Operations, which have to be internationally recognized, but are a positive step forward in terms of strategic impact on the reinforcement of the operational feature of the CPLP in the field of Defence under the Protocol of 2006, in Cidade da Praia.

14. Valued the holding of the Forum of the CPLP Ministers for Internal Affairs, during which the Lisbon Declaration was approved with a view to developing the co-operation between the CPLP countries in the areas of security and public order, as well as migration and borders and civil protection; institutionalization of the Council of Heads of Police of the CPLP and the creation of the network of co-operation focal points of the CPLP in the area of Internal Affairs.

15. Welcomed the 4th Meeting of the CPLP Environment Ministers, during which the decision to adhere to the initiative of the United Nations Environment Programme "*Plant for the Planet: The Billion Tree Campaign*" was taken. They also welcomed a meeting of Environment NGO representatives, which will run parallel to the Ministerial Meeting.

16. Further expressed satisfaction at the 1st Women and HIV/AIDS Policies Ministerial Meeting: "*Building Alliances between the Portuguese-Speaking Countries towards Universal Access*", which took place in Rio de Janeiro, and its conclusions. They also took note of the "Rio de Janeiro Charter", approved at the 2nd Congress of the CPLP on DST and VIH/AIDS, also held in Rio de Janeiro.

17. Reiterated the importance of promoting the gender equality within the CPLP, a dimension that the Community has to incorporate into all its co-operation policies, strategies, projects and programmes, thus enabling it to: (i) reinforce education and capacity building policies for women; (ii) promote the recognition of the women's work within the family and the informal sector of the economy; (iii) ensure the availability of health care, family planning and education and an efficient fight against the feminization of VIH/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis; and (iv) promote the prevention and fight against gender violence.

18. Urged the organization of the Forum on Renewable Energy and Environmental Protection, to take place in October 2008, according to the Resolution adopted at the 11th Ordinary Meeting of the Council of Ministers of the CPLP.

19. Noted the decision to develop a CPLP policy for the Oceans, taken at the 11th Ordinary Meeting of the Council of Ministers of the CPLP, and underlined that taking technical decisions on the matter as soon as possible might be of interest to all if it is to be implemented in the near future.

Thus, they urged the Member States to convene a Meeting of the Ministers responsible for coordinating maritime affairs at national level with a view to co-ordinating their views in international community forums and following the actions for the sustainable management of the oceans. They also called for the creation of a CPLP Centre for Maritime Studies – Platform for Sharing Information and Knowledge about the Sea –, to bring together research units at the universities in the Member States with a view to boosting the scientific production, establishing an information network and harmonizing the databases.

20. Took note with satisfaction of the 2nd Meeting between the Advisory Observers and the Executive Secretariat of the CPLP, held in June 2008, a privileged forum for dialogue with its Member States' civil society. In this regard, they reiterated the importance of these Observers as a means to bring the Organization closer to civil society, when participating in the implementation of the projects undertaken by the CPLP.

21. Expressed satisfaction at the Co-operation Protocol signed between the Executive Secretariat of the CPLP and the United Nations News and Media Division, in April 2008, with a view to

strengthening the relationship between the communication and information divisions of both organizations.

22. Welcomed the recent initiatives promoted by the Brazilian Government together with Angola, Cape Verde and São Tomé e Príncipe in the field of e-government, considering the potential offered by the information communications technology for promoting the development and the Portuguese language, whose purpose is to enable the interconnection between the governmental bodies of those countries with a view to sharing knowledge and acquiring technology by means of free software. In this regard, they recommended the search for mechanisms for enhancing the co-operation in the fields of e-government, internet governance and information technology within the CPLP.

23. As far as the promotion and diffusion of the Portuguese language is concerned, they:

i) Took note of the set of projects the *Instituto Internacional da Língua Portuguesa* (IILP) [Portuguese Language International Institute] submitted to the Permanent Dialogue Committee and reiterated the urgent need to support financially, as well as technically, the Institute's initiatives in order to promote and divulge the Portuguese Language.

ii) Also took note of the 2nd and 3rd Meetings of the IILP Scientific Council, held in Cidade da Praia, on 3 and 4 July 2007, and in Lisbon, from 2 to 4 July 2008, respectively.

iii) Welcomed the joint initiative of the Executive Secretariat of the CPLP, the IILP and the *União Latina* (Union Latine) to launch for the first time the Contest "Let us finish this Tale" which has adopted some of the aims underlying our Organization, namely to foster and promote the exchange of young people, in particular in the field of teaching, culture and reinforcement of the Portuguese language.

iv) Urged the Member States to continue to develop mechanisms and forms of co-operation that ensure that Portuguese is the official or working language in the regional multilateral bodies, including of their documents and internet sites.

v) Pledged to make every effort to support East-Timor, taking into account the special circumstances which make it difficult to learn Portuguese in that Member State. They expressed satisfaction at the success of the 2nd Portuguese Book Fair which took place in Díli from 19 - 30 April 2008 and continue to encourage the Member States to participate in similar initiatives.

vi) Expressed satisfaction that the Day of the Portuguese Language in the UNESCO has been celebrated for the third consecutive year within the framework of co-operation between the CPLP and other international bodies.

vii) Expressed satisfaction at the ratification of the Orthographic Agreement and its Amending Protocols by São Tomé e Príncipe and Portugal, and called on the Member States that have already ratified the said Agreement to adopt measures designed to enable its entry into force.

viii) Took note of the 7th Meeting of the Three Linguistic Spaces, held in Lisbon, under the auspices of the CPLP, and emphasized the importance of the multilingualism as well as of the ratification of the UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions by the Member States.

Urged the Member States to pursue their efforts to implement the decisions taken within the framework of: (a) inter-comprehension of languages; (b) multilingualism; (c) the creation of a Multilingual Terminological Database; (d) the use of the multilingual signs in the Member States; and (e) cultural industries.

ix) Expressed satisfaction at the recent establishment of the Development and Language Fund by the Portuguese Government and urged the other CPLP Member States to develop specific and consolidated policies to jointly promote the Portuguese Language in light of the urgency of an efficient and dynamic coordination of the CPLP Member States' language policy, with the focus on the potential offered by internet for communication and transmission of knowledge, in order to ensure that this common wealth plays an important economic, social and cultural role in the globalization as it manifests itself in the XXI century.

24. Welcomed the CPLP Week, an initiative launched by the Guinean Presidency, with the support of the Executive Secretariat and the Embassies of the Member States in Lisbon, whose purpose was to bring the CPLP closer to civil society and which proposed several cultural activities, ranging from art exhibitions and musical workshops to colloquiums on the CPLP and the "lusophonie".

25. Expressed satisfaction at the launch of the CPLP website and the environmental information website on the occasion of the 4th Conference of the CPLP Ministers for Environment, and underlined the importance of providing as much information as possible on the internet so that the populations and their diasporas have a facilitated access to the decisions and activities underpinning the Community.

26. Took note of the following resolutions adopted by the Council of Ministers:

i) Granting the associated observer status to the Republic of Senegal;

ii) Endorsing Member States' candidacies to Agencies of International Organizations;

iii) Involving the CPLP in the fight against HIV/AIDS;

iv) Temporary functioning of the Regional Centres of Excellence;

v) Granting the CPLP consultative observer status;

vi) Reinforcing the participation of the civil society in the CPLP;

vii) Local power in the CPLP;

viii) Movement of cultural goods;

ix) Food safety;

x) Entrepreneurial Council of the CPLP;

xi) *Instituto Internacional da Língua Portuguesa* (IILP);

xii) Operational budget of the Executive Secretariat for 2008;

xiii) Operational budget of the IILP for 2008;

xiv) Report from the joint audit of the CPLP financial statements in 2007;

27. They adopted the following declarations:

i) Declaration on "The Portuguese Language: A Common Heritage, A Global Future";

ii) Declaration of appreciation addressed to the Executive Secretary of the CPLP;

iii) Declaration of appreciation addressed to the Deputy Executive Secretary of the CPLP.

28. Congratulated the Angolan Government for its efforts to rebuild the country's infrastructures and to fulfil other tasks included in the Government's Programme, a fact that has allowed Angola to achieve excellent economic, political and social results that translate into the economic growth experienced since peace has been achieved.

They further commended the Angolan Government for the set of actions being carried out within the framework of the preparation of the next legislative elections in the country, thus giving hope that those elections will be peaceful. This feeling has been contributing to the consolidation of the democratic spirit in Angola and, as a consequence, civil society is participating actively.

Finally, they thanked the Angolan authorities for inviting a team of election observers from the Community of Portuguese-Speaking Countries to observe the elections next September.

29. Reiterated their support to the United Nations Peacebuilding Commission as they believe that the institutional, social and economic reconstruction is essential for the recovery of countries emerging from conflicts as well as for the prevention of the latter.

Expressed satisfaction at the decision to include Guinea-Bissau on the Agenda of the Peacebuilding Commission and congratulate Brazil, responsible for co-ordinating its specific content concerning that country, for the commitment to ensuring that the Peacebuilding Commission delivers tangible benefits to Guinea-Bissau – the fourth largest recipient of Brazilian resources to be used for technical co-operation purposes in the world and the second largest in Africa – in the hope that the Commission gradually assumes the role of a United Nations central body in the international community's efforts to help post-conflict countries to recover.

30. Commended Cape Verde for its graduation from the list of Least Developed Countries which will become effective on 1 January 2008, for its adhesion to the World Trade Organization (WTO) which became effective on 23 July 2008 as well as for its special partnership, since November 2007, with the European Union.

They noted with appreciation that according to the information given by Cape Verde the international community follows the graduation process of this Member State through a Transition Support Group (GAT), which has recommended specific measures for the adaptation to the new conditions.

31. Welcomed the efforts made by the Guinean Government towards the complete political stabilization of the country, economic recovery and the fight to stop the national territory from serving as a platform for drug trafficking, and called on the international community to support the current election process as well as the reform programmes in the fields of defence and security, justice and public service, conditions which are fundamental to the process of normalizing the public life as well as the economic and social development of Guinea-Bissau.

Reaffirmed the need to maintain Guinea-Bissau on the international agenda and to this effect a commitment of the external partners to support the efforts made towards its development is needed, and warned of the severe consequences of the current international economic crisis for the economic and social sectors of the less developed and fragile States such as Guinea-Bissau.

32. Congratulated the Government of the Republic of Mozambique for the social and economic progress being made in the country as it contributes to the improvement in the living conditions of the populations despite the hardship caused by natural calamities and the constant increase in fuel and food prices and its scarcity on the world market.

33. Expressed satisfaction at the Joint Euro-African Strategy for the main areas of common interest – peace and security, governance and human rights, trade, regional integration and development – adopted during the Portuguese EU Presidency. They congratulated Portugal for

the successful efforts in organizing the 2nd EU-Africa Summit in Lisbon, on 8 and 9 December 2007.

Expressed satisfaction at the 1st EU-Brazil Summit, held at the beginning of the EU Presidency, in Lisbon, on 4 July 2007, where a Strategic Partnership was launched and the decision to strengthen the political dialogue at the highest level taken.

34. Commended the authorities of the Democratic Republic of São Tomé e Príncipe for the efforts made to overcome the recent political crisis, which enabled the formation of a new Government without having to provide for new elections, thus avoiding the human and financial costs that this process would entail for the weakened economy of this Member State.

They further congratulated that same country for the positive results achieved in the fight against malaria, a factor that will contribute to the attainment of one of the Millennium Development Goals.

35. Commended the Member States for their constant dedication to promoting peace, stability and harmony in East-Timor.

They also expressed appreciation for the efforts made by the Government, the Presidency, the National Parliament and the people of East-Timor towards the restoration of peace and stability as well as towards economic development.

36. Elected unanimously Mr. Domigos Simões Pereira as Executive Secretary for a term of two years and expressed their confidence and firm support for him in the performance of his duties, and welcomed the appointment of Mr. Helder Vaz Lopes as the new Director General of the Executive Secretariat.

37. Accepted with appreciation the offer made by the Republic of Cape Verde to host the 14th Ordinary Meeting of the Council of Ministers, which will place in Cidade da Praia, in 2009.

They also accepted with appreciation the offer made by the Republic of Angola to host the 8th Conference of Heads of State and Government, which will take place in 2010.

38. Congratulated the Portuguese authorities for the excellent arrangements made for the Conference and expressed their sincere appreciation for the generous welcome and hospitality accorded to all participants of the 7th Conference of the Heads of State and Government of the Community of Portuguese-Speaking Countries.

Done and signed in Lisbon on 25 July 2008.

For the Republic of Angola

For the Federative Republic of Brazil

For the Republic of Cape Verde

For the Republic of Guinea-Bissau

For the Republic of Mozambique

For the Republic of Portugal

For the Democratic Republic of São Tomé e Príncipe

For the Democratic Republic of East-Timor

Appendix

1) 3rd Meeting of the Heads of Police of the CPLP – Brasilia, 10 July 2008;
2) 4th Technical Meeting to discuss telecommunications – Cidade da Praia, 10 and 11 July 2008;
3) 10th Meeting of the CPLP Ministers of Defence – Díli, 16-20 May 2008;
4) 1st Meeting of CPLP Directors for National Defence Policy – Díli, 16 May 2008;
5) 5th General Assembly of the Organization of the CPLP High Supervisory Bodies – Porto, 8 and 9 May 2008;
6) 4th CPLP Ministerial Meeting on Environment – Luanda, 24 April 2008;
7) 9th World Congress of the Association of Portuguese- Speaking Chemists and Druggists – Praia, 23-25 April 2008;
8) 1st Congress of CPLP Economic Journalists – Malanje, 21 and 22 April 2008;
9) 10th Meeting of the CHOD of the CPLP – Brasilia, 15-17 April 2008;
10) 2nd CPLP Congress on DST and VIH/AIDS in the CPLP – Rio de Janeiro, 14-17 April 2008;
11) 1st Meeting of the CPLP Health Ministers – Praia, 11 and 12 April 2008;
12) 7th Meeting of Portuguese- Speaking Economists – Maputo, 9-11 April 2008;
13) 1st Forum of the CPLP Ministers for Internal Affairs – Lisbon, 8 and 9 April 2008;
14) 2nd Meeting of the Heads of Police of the CPLP – Lisbon, 8 April 2008;
15) 1st Women and HIV/AIDS Policies Ministerial Meeting: "Building Alliances between the Portuguese-Speaking Countries towards Universal Access" – Rio de Janeiro, 24 and 25 March 2008;
16) 3rd Ordinary Session of the Fisheries Ministers Conference – Maputo, 6 and 7 March 2008;
17) International Workshop on Climate, Natural Resources and Applications in the CPLP: Partnerships in the field of Climate and Environment – Sal Island, 29 February to 7 March 2008;
18) 11th Conference of the CPLP Ministers of Justice – Bissau, 11 and 12 February 2008;
19) 8th Meeting of the CPLP Ministers for Labour and Social Affairs – Díli, 11 and 12 February 2008;
20) 1st Meeting of the Executive Bodies of the Electoral Administration of the CPLP Member States – 10-14 December 2007;
21) 6th Meeting of the Ministers of Culture – Praia, 2-4 November 2007;
22) 17th Lisbon Meeting with the Delegations of the African Portuguese-Speaking Countries and East-Timor to the Annual Assembly of the IMF/World Bank – Lisbon, 16 October 2007;
23) Workshop on the Platform for sharing television programmes between Public Televisions of the Lusophone Countries and TV CPLP - Television of the Community of the Portuguese-Speaking Countries – Lisbon, 16 October 2007;
24) 4th Forum of Portuguese-speaking Parliaments – Bissau, 13 and 14 October 2007;
25) 2nd Meeting of the Representatives of the Portuguese-Speaking Firemen, during which the *União dos Bombeiros dos Países de Língua Portuguesa* (UBPLP) [Firemen's Union of the Portuguese-Speaking Countries] was created – Lisbon, 11 October 2007;
26) 1st Symposium on Food and Nutritional Safety: A Co-operation and Development Challenge within CPLP – Luanda, 4 and 5 October 2007;
27) 1st Environment Congress of the Lusophone Countries and Galiza – Santiago de Compostela, 27 September 2007;
28) Lusophone Congress – Longevity and Health, *Instituto de Higiene e Medicina Tropical* (Institute of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine) – Lisbon, 21 September 2007;
29) 4th Meeting of the CPLP Foundations – Luanda, 20 and 21 September 2007;

30) 3rd Meeting of the Portuguese-Speaking Rotarians – Atibaia (Brazil), 1 September 2007;
31) 1st Meeting of the Portuguese-Speaking Notaries and Registrars – Praia, 23-25 July 2007;
32) Extraordinary Meeting of the CPLP Ministers for Sports and Youth – Mindelo, 28-30 June 2007;
33) Conference "International Security and Co-operation Challenges within the framework of the CPLP" – Lisbon, 26 June 2007;
34) 1st Seminar on the Main Endemic diseases in the CPLP – Brasilia, 11-15 June 2007;
35) 17th Meeting of the Association of the Portuguese-Speaking Universities – Praia, 11-14 June 2007;
36) 15th Forum of the Association of Postal and Telecommunications Operators of the Portuguese-Speaking Countries – Maputo, 24 April 2007;
37) General Assembly of AICEP – Maputo, 23 April 2007;
38) 9th Meeting of the Chiefs of Defence Staff of the CPLP – Luanda, 10-12 April 2007;
39) 1st Meeting of Focal Points for the Fight against Exploitative Child Labour in the CPLP Countries – Lisbon, 28 March 2007;
40) 1st Ordinary Meeting of the Heads of Police of the CPLP – Luanda, 26 and 27 March 2007;
41) Round Table Platform for sharing television programmes between Public Television Operators of the Lusophone Countries and TV CPLP – Lisbon, 5-7 March 2007;
42) 4th Meeting of the CPLP Ministers for Tourism – Lisbon, 25 January 2007;
43) 3rd International Congress of CPLP Physicians – Luanda, 23-26 January 2007;
44) Conference of the Women's Network of the Forum of Portuguese-speaking Parliaments – Luanda, 15 and 16 December 2006;
45) 1st Meeting of the Entities responsible for the Civil Control of the Security Forces in the Portuguese-speaking Countries – Lisbon, 12 and 13 December 2006;
46) 9th Meeting of the Sports Ministers – Cidade de Salvador – Bahia, 6 and 7 December 2006;
47) 1st Meeting of the CPLP Institutes of Public Administration – Lisbon, 6 December 2006;
48) 1st Congress of the Portuguese-speaking Medical Community – Praia, 27-29 November 2006;
49) 3rd Meeting of the CPLP Central Bank Governors – Luanda, 6 November 2006;
50) 5th Meeting of the Ministers of Culture – Bissau, 28 and 29 October 2006;
51) 4th Technical Meeting to discuss telecommunications – Maputo, 19 and 20 October 2006;
52) 21st Conference of the CPLP Director-Generals of Customs – Lobito, 9-12 October 2006;
53) 1st Seminar on malaria treatment in the Portuguese-speaking Countries – Lisbon, 9-11 October 2006;
54) 1st Lusophonie Games – Macau, 7-15 October 2006;
55) 2nd Meeting of the Road Directors of the CPLP Countries (DEPLP) – Lisbon, 3 October 2006;
56) 3rd Meeting of the Lusophone Foundations – Luanda, September 2006;
57) 7th Meeting of the General Secretariats of the Portuguese-speaking Parliaments – Brasilia, 26-29 September 2006;
58) 9th Meeting of the Defence Ministers – Praia, 14 and 15 September 2006;
59) 7th Meeting of the Ministers for Labour and Social Affairs – Bissau, 4 and 5 September 2006;
60) 4th General Assembly of the Organization of the CPLP High Supervisory Bodies – Maputo, 21 July 2006.